

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
NOVA SCOTIA BAPTIST
Home Missionary Society.

Formed at Hantsport, June 22nd, 1857.

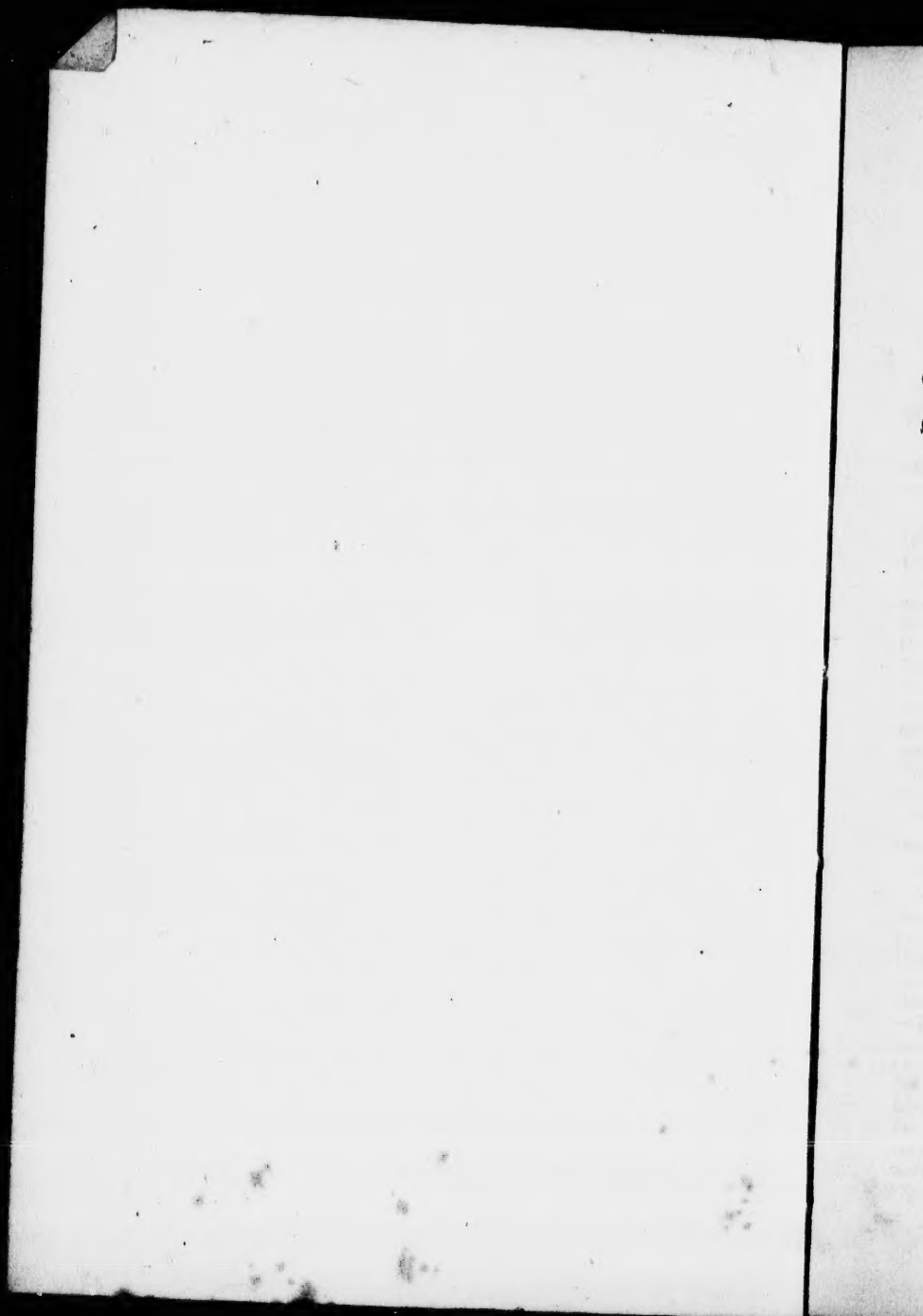
WITH
REMARKS AND AN APPEAL.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

—
"Beginning at Jerusalem."
— "The night cometh when no man can work."
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HALIFAX, N. S.
PRINTED AT THE "CHRISTIAN MESSENGER" OFFICE.

1857.



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CONSTITUTION

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

ADOPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN THE YEAR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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CONSTITUTION.

I. This Society shall be called "The Nova Scotia Baptist Home Missionary Society."

II. The object of this Society shall be the preaching of the Gospel throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the assistance of feeble Churches, and the planting of new ones.

III. Any person may become a member of this Society by contributing five shillings and upwards, annually, to its funds. Any person contributing five pounds at one time, shall be a life member. Any person contributing twenty pounds at one time, or whose contributions shall amount to that sum, shall be a Life Director. Every Association or Auxiliary, which contributes annually to this Society, shall be entitled to be represented by one Delegate for every five pounds so contributed; and every Baptist Church contributing annually to the funds of the Society shall also have the privilege of sending a Delegate. Should the funds so contributed exceed five pounds, such Churches shall be entitled to send one Delegate for every five pounds contributed. *Provided:* That no Association, Auxiliary, or Church, shall be entitled to send more than five Delegates at one time.

IV. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Auditor, who shall be annually appointed by the Society from among its members.

V. The Society shall annually appoint a Board of Management, consisting of twenty-four members, seven of whom shall reside in the place designated from year to year as the location of the Board, or in its neighbourhood, and seven shall constitute a quorum. The officers above named shall be *ex-officio* members of the Board. The following shall be the duties of the Board, viz.: —To meet from time to time for the despatch of business, due notice of such meeting being given; to appoint Missionaries, and assign their respective spheres of labor; to expend the funds for the objects of the Society, provided that all amounts contributed for any specific purpose shall be faithfully applied, as far as possible, in accordance with the wishes of the donors; to employ agents for the collection of funds, and for the general advancement of the interests of the Society; and to furnish a report of the proceedings of the past year at the Annual meeting.

VI. Every Auxiliary Society which shall agree to commit all its funds to the direction of this Society, shall be entitled to receive Missionary labor in such field as it may designate, to an amount at least equal to its contribution; provided, that such designation be intimated at the time of payment.

VII. The members of Auxiliary Societies shall be members of this Society. Life Directors shall be entitled to attend and vote at meetings of the Board.

VIII. The Annual meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined upon at a previous Annual meeting. At that meeting, the officers of the Society for the ensuing year shall be appointed, and such other business transacted as the members then present shall deem expedient.

IX. No alteration of this Constitution shall be made without an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at an Annual meeting.

BOARD OF MANAGERS; FOR 1857.

Rev. J. M. Cramp, D. D.
 " A. S. Hunt, A. M.
 " William Chipman.
 " William Burton.
 " T. H. Porter, Senr.
 " A. Stronach.
 " T. W. Crawley.
 " I. J. Skinner.
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J. W. Nutting, Esq.
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 J. W. Johnston, Junr., Esq.
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 S. Strong, Esq.
 Mayhew Beckwith, Esq.
 Abel Parker, Esq.
 T. S. Harding, Esq.
 John King, Esq.
 Herbert Cunningham, Esq.
 Benjamin Douglass, Esq.
 Jacob S. Layton, Esq.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1857.

Rev. Willard G. Parker, *President*.
 " James Parker,
 " D. W. C. Dimock,
 " David Freeman, A. M., } *Vice Presidents*.
 " R. McLearn,
 John Whitman, Esq., *Treasurer*.
 J. W. Barss, Esq., *Auditor*.
 Rev. S. N. Bentley, A. M., *Secretary*.

REMARKS.

This Society was formed at Hantsport on the 22nd day of June, 1857, during the Session of the Central Association, and by its recommendation.

A delegation from the Eastern Association present, approved of the proceeding and bespoke the concurrence of the Eastern churches. A fortnight later the Eastern Association in convention at Onslow, adopted the Constitution.

The Western Association having held its annual session just previous to the meeting of the Central, the subject cannot now be presented for its consideration until the ensuing session of 1858. So desirable, however, is it, that the organization already effected, should be brought into active operation—nothing doubting that the Western Association will unite in hearty co-operation,—the Board decided to proceed to business, and at an early meeting it was resolved to print and publish the Constitution, and circulate it extensively, accompanied with the foregoing remarks and the following appeal.

APPEAL

To the Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, and to the members of the respective congregations, and to all who love our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

DEAR BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,—

Relying upon your co-operation—your prayers—your sympathies—your contributions, we have engaged in this Home Missionary enterprise.

“Attempt great things—expect great things.” We remember this apophthegm of a great missionary—and we desire that none should forget it.

Nova Scotia and Prince Edward’s Island afford a vast field for missionary operation. Their entire population is at present, probably little short of four hundred thousand souls. In less than ten years it may reasonably be expected that this population will exceed half a million. What a field for labour!

In order to “possess this land,” what we Baptists for a long time have seemed to require, was such an organization as would combine the sympathies and efforts of the entire denomination, and would deserve and command their confidence. An organization possessing concentration, discretion and wisdom at the centre,—zeal, tone, responsibility and vigour, at the circumference,—union, harmony, and charity throughout.

All we can do is to sketch the landscape—it is for you Brethren and friends, by your good works, sanctified through the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, to fill up the picture,—to make the desert blossom as the rose.

Give us now your confidence—do more—give us of your substance, give cheerfully, give steadily, give promptly. Without this we can do nothing.

Qualification for membership has been fixed low—very low, just in order that the greatest possible number of persons, may enjoy the satisfaction, the luxury of systematically aiding to carry the Word of life to those places that have long sat in darkness. A dollar a year—only five pence a month, but little over a penny a week. Who so straitened among us, that feels for the condition of their fellow men unregenerate, but will cheerfully assume the responsibility of such a membership, promptly discharging its duties?

Then, whenever it can be conveniently done—pay in advance. There is thus more pleasure to the giver—there is more advantage to the Society. Again then we say—and we ask it in His name, who has guaranteed that, but “a cup of cold water given to a disciple, in the name of a disciple shall not lose its reward”—give us your names, brethren and sisters, and friends of Christ and of His cause, as members—and give us your subscriptions in advance.

In the absence of any other agency we forward you this appeal. Perhaps we are taking too much liberty, we hope not—but we ask it of the pastors of our churches, we claim it from the deacons and office-bearers, we urge it upon all who love the souls of men, and Him that made them, that they circulate this our Constitution, these remarks and this our appeal, that they thus take it upon themselves to act as our agents to obtain memberships, furnishing our secretary with a copy of all subscriber's names, and remitting proceeds to our treasurer.

The Constitution it will be observed is adapted to, and contemplates the co-operation of Auxiliaries, and funds may to a large extent be designated by donors themselves.

In the early history of the Provinces the preachers of our denomination were all more or less missionaries. It was missionary effort that planted most of our churches. The modern pastor however, is required constantly among his people,—and therefore we need a system by which weak churches may be aided and new ones planted.

Fifty churches within the limits of our three Associations are reported as being without pastors, some of these return a hundred members and upwards in their fellowship, and many of them are destitute of any regular stated preaching.

Your Board are impressed with the belief that much teaching and ministerial talent lies unimproved in the midst of our churches. True apostolic succession has ever been, and will ever be most successfully sought for in churches most nearly conformed to apostolic order and practice. We want laborers—more laborers. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send them. And, brethren, whenever you find your young men giving promise of possessing teaching and preaching talent, encourage them, strengthen them, aid them, train them, and direct them to us, that, by the grace of God, they may become the honored instruments of winning souls.

Students for the ministry would do well to cultivate the missionary field for a time. As with the gold seekers of this world, often and often, the richest rewards attend labour bestowed in remote and uninviting localities.

Send us your means, and send us your men, and for all such we will find abundance of useful and honorable employment.

Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ! Friends of the Redeemer! Brethren and Sisters! Lovers of the souls of men! come ye nearer to the Cross of Christ. Come from Lebanon. Look from the top of Amana, from the top of Shenir and Hermon! Behold the Country—and again we bid you “Go up and possess it.”

“And their works do follow them.” So said the spirit to the Revelator.

Home Missionary Rooms, Halifax,
August 8th, 1857.

LIST OF LIFE DIRECTORS.

£ s. d.

LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS.

LIST OF MEMBERS. 185

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NOTE.—It is particularly desired that parties receiving copies hereof, will act as Agents and obtain as many members as possible.

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Wayland's Principles and Practices of the Baptists.

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“ “ Acts

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“ “ Second series.

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“ “ or ten days travel in search of the Church.

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